

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0228

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR NATO NO

SUBJ: SOVIETS VOICE CONCERN OVER DEFENSE OF NORTH SEA OIL
INSTALLATIONS

1. SOVIET AMBASSADOR ROMANOVSKI HAS INFORMED FOREIGN
MINISTER FRYDENLUND OF SERIOUS CONCERN ON THE PART OF
MOSCOW WITH THE NATO PROPOSAL FOR THE DEFENSE OF NORTH
SEA OIL INSTALLATIONS AND WHAT NORWEGIAN ACTION TO
PROPOSAL MIGHT BE. SENIRO, WELL INFORMED DIVISION CHIEF
AT FOREIGN MINISTRY ADVISED EMBOFF THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR
ASKED TO SEE NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER "ON ANOTHER
SUBJECT" BUT USED OCCASION TO EXPRESS SOVIET ANXIETIES
OVER DUTCH NATO EUROGROUP PROPOSAL FOR DEFENSE OF
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NORTH SEA OIL INSTALLATIONS AND THE PRESENT NORWEGIAN

POSITION. APPARENT BASIS FOR SOVIET DEMARCHE IN OSLO WAS CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE CHANGE IN NORWEGIAN BASE POLICY -- I.E., NO FOREIGN TROOPS ON NORWEGIAN SOIL IN PEACE TIME. SOVIET AMBASSADOR RECEIVED ON-THE-SPOT ASSURANCES THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THIS POLICY.

2. SOVIET PRESS ATTACKS ON "NORWEGIAN OIL POLICY" AND "NATO INTENTIONS RE OPERATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH OIL EXPLORATION . . . CLOSE TO THE SOVIET BORDER," WERE FRONT-PAGED BY LEADING OSLO DAILY AFTENPOSTEN JANUARY 17. SOVIET PRESS INVECTIVE ALSO INCLUDED ALLEGATIONS THAT NATO IS PRESSURING SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES, PRIMARILY NORWAY, AND THAT NORWEGIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE FAILED TO BRING ACTIVITIES OF "MULTINATIONAL MONOPOLIES" UNDER CONTROL. NORWEGIAN CORRESPONDENT IN MOSCOW (NOLS UDGAARD) OBSERVES IN ARTICLE THAT SOVIET COMMENTARY MAY BE INTERPRETED AS AN ATTEMPT TO BRING PRESSURE ON NORWAY DURING ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS ON DELIMITATION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE BARENTS SEA.

3. ACCORDING TO FOREIGN MINISTRY, NORWAY IS MOST INTERESTED IN EXPLORING ALL MEASURES, NATIONAL AND MULTINATIONAL, FOR DEFENSE OF OFFSHORE OIL RIGS. DUTCH PROPOSAL IN EUROGROUP, WHICH NORWAY HAS JUST RECEIVED, IS UNDER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS WERE NOT SURPRISED BY SOVIET DEMARCHE WHICH THEY TEND TO SEE AS SOVIET JITTERS OVER POSSIBLE CHANGES IN NORWEGIAN BASE POLICY RATHER THAN EFFORTS TO PRESSURE NORWAY IN BARENTS SEA NEGOTIATIONS.
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